

# WASHINGTON STATE

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

### MONTHLY REPORT

*OCTOBER 2004*

CATEGORY	OCT 2004	OCT 2003	YTD 04	YTD 03
CSEPP INCIDENTS	5	5	39	36
DOE INCIDENTS	0	0	8	13
FIRE	30	44	333	437
HAZMAT	207	163	1659	1487
OTHER	12	15	227	205
911 OUTAGES	1	0	25	28
SAR	54	55	510	532
TERRORIST	0	1	0	1
WEATHER	6	7	60	45
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	315	290	2862	2784

#### LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On October 1, the State EOC assumed Phase III Operations at 1225 hours in response to a volcanic steam and ash eruption on Mount St Helens at 1203 PDT. At 1254 an Ash Advisory was issued for Skamania and Cowlitz Counties which was later canceled at 1530 hours. No deaths, injuries or damages were reported as a result of this volcanic event. The State EOC returned to Phase II Enhanced Operations at 1800 hours October 1, 2004 and continued to monitor the situation at the mountain.

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- On October 2, the state EOC once again resumed Phase III operations in response to Mount St. Helens increased earthquake activities at 1335 hours. The USGS issued a Volcano Alert (Alert Level 3) when monitoring and evaluation indicated precursory events had escalated to the point where a volcanic event was eminent or was underway. The Johnson Ridge Observatory was evacuated and some road closures were implemented to keep people out of harms way if the mountain should erupt. A unified command center and a Joint Information Center (JIC) were established at the USGS headquarters in Vancouver to monitor and direct state and federal-level emergency operation activities.
- On October 6, the USGS lowered the Volcano Alert Level for Mt St Helens to **Alert Level II (Volcano Advisory)**. This alert level is declared when monitoring and evaluation by USGS-CVO indicate that processes are underway that could culminate in hazardous volcanic activity, but evidence does not indicate that a life-or-property threatening event is imminent. The Aviation Color Code is **Orange**. The State EOC remains at Phase II Enhanced Operation.
- On October 14, an oil spill was discovered in Commencement Bay during the very early morning hours. Due to darkness followed by significant early morning fog, the full extent of the spill was not discovered until mid-morning when an over flight by US Coast Guard and Department of Fish and Wildlife aircraft plotted the spill. The estimated 1,000 -1,500 gallon spill reached from the northern tip of Vashon Island in King County down to the Tacoma Narrows in Pierce County with product found in Quartermaster Harbor to the north and Commencement Bay to the south. A unified command with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Ecology was formed at the Tacoma Fire Training Facility located in the Tide Flats area of Tacoma. In response to the "Dalco Passage Oil Spill" Pierce County activated their EOC at 1245 hours. The State EOC would have activated to a Phase II operational posture, but was already operating at this level due to the volcanic activity at Mount Stain Helens and the increased Threat Level on the East Coast. More than 6,800 gallons of oily water was recovered by skimmers, which completed their job on Monday October 18. Investigation in the cause of the spill is ongoing.
- On October 24, the National Weather Service issued a Freeze Warning for the Lower Columbia Basin, a Heavy Snow Warning for Chelan and Okanogan Counties and a Gail Warning from Camano Island to Point Roberts. The Freeze Warning expired on the morning of October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Heavy Snow Warning was subsequently cancelled later in the morning of October 25<sup>th</sup> and the Gail Warning was cancelled on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

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- On October 29, the National weather Service issued a Gale Warning for the marine waters of Camano Island to Point Roberts. The weather front passed without noticeable impact and was cancelled the same day.
- On October 30, Thurston county sheriff office started a search for a 5 year old boy last seen at 1400 hours. Child was found in good health at 1830hours.
- On October 31, the National weather Service issued a new Gale Warning for the marine waters of Camano Island to Point Roberts. The weather warning was still in effect at the close of this monthly reporting period.
- For the month of October, 2004 the SEOO's:
  - Issued 16 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Issued 15 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Conducted 634 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
  - Coordinated 6 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
  - Participated in 8 exercises of which 7 were vessel spill drills
  - Made 1,591 and answered 1,965 telephone calls
  - Conducted 2,538 National Warning System Tests, conducted 228 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
  - Conducted 54 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
  - Conducted 2 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
  - Conducted 5 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)

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- Conducted 32 down wind trajectory connectivity communications tests with the Umatilla Military Storage Depot (D2PUFF)